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A case of too many candidates

CHINESE PRESS

CANDIDATES nominated by non-specified organisations to sit on the Basic Law Consultative Committee have grossly outnumbered the seats designated for this category.

The six-member group set up to oversee the formation of the consultative body has asked the organisations concerned to provide a shortlist of candidates through consultations among themselves.

In this connection, the six-member group has made it clear that it would not be involved in such consultations.

The Tin Tin Daily News praised the group's decision, saying that since the consultative body only has 150 vacancies, it is obvious that it could not include all those who showed willingness to offer their services as members.

Under such circumstances, the paper urged those who have failed to secure a seat in the consultative committee to continue their support by airing their views on the Basic Law through other available channels.

Commenting on the application lodged by the Hongkong and Yaumati Ferry Co for permission to increase its fares early next year, the Express felt the ferry company should not have relied solely on fare increases to maintain its profitability.

The paper even went so far as saying that the services provided by HYF are not compatible with the fares it charged.

The ferry company would be able to win back much of its lost support from commuters if it improved its services.

The paper said that the Government must ask HYF to prove that the fare increase sought is justified.

In this connection, the ferry company must make public its accounts to enable the Government to assess the reasonableness of its application, stressed the paper.

The Wah Kiu Yat Po felt the authorities must consider effective measures to alleviate the congestion at the Lion Rock Tunnel.

The paper attributed the phenomenon to the rapid growth in population in the New Territories as a result of internal migration. It believed the situation would become even worse in the next six months.

Apart from trying to improve the efficiency of toll collection counters with a view to speeding up the flow of traffic, the paper thought the Government should also speed up the construction work of the highway linking Shatin and Tsun Wan so that Kowloon-bound motorists could be provided with an alternative routing.

In view of the far-reaching effects the problem may have on the development of new towns in the New Territories, the Government must act immediately, the paper added.

New Territories taxi operators said in a press conference that they had suffered an annual operating loss of about \$10,000 each.

They said this was mainly due to an over-supply of taxis in the New Territories.

The New Evening Post felt the Government should consider measures to help NT taxi-owners overcome their difficulties.

Apart from allowing these operators to raise their fares in a reasonable manner, the paper felt the Government should consider stopping the issue of new licences to avoid an excessive supply of taxis in the area.